

# From the Ground Up: Montana Women in Agriculture

## INTERVIEW EXCERPTS

### Esther McDonald Granite County Rancher

#### ON CONSERVATION:

“Well I think I shared with you the importance of agriculture and the renewable resource and the family life and getting involved in politics or legislative stuff and keeping abreast of the county doings ... You just can’t be yourself, (an old person) and just talk to old ladies (laughs). You’ve got to branch out.”

#### ON BEING A RANCHER:

“I guess I was more interested in animals because I was basically a cow person and a horse person. I wasn’t a domestic.”

#### A FOND MEMORY:

“Well we got up at six. Got the breakfast for the hired men. And then we’d peel potatoes for dinner and we had the main meal at noon and then they’d come in and so we had a roast and all that ... And then sometimes — about two o’clock maybe in the summer, in the haying, all of us girls that lived on the ranches, we’d take our kids to Echo Lake and swim and we got about two hours or something but it was fun ...”

